

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 19, 1999 LB 637

this is such a weak-kneed, sniveling body when it comes to doing something to mess over women that they'll go for it. It started formally with us as a Legislature when we voted against bringing a bill out here to even discuss whether or not contraceptives for women ought to be covered by insurance. We followed that up by knocking off a bill that would have brought into existence a women's health initiative that would have cost the gigantic figure of \$147,000. Then we turn right around and vote for a bill, I didn't vote for it, I wasn't up here, to help these male farmers be, what Senator Redfield correctly pointed out, sharecroppers for three years so that you can give some of these old male farmers tax breaks, and that's going to cost over a million dollars, but I think I read where Senator Wehrbein said that can be found in the budget. But we cannot find a way to help women. And all of these men on the floor will play like we like women, we even sometimes do things that could be called flirting with our colleagues. I didn't say sexually harassing. So we give all the outer appearances when it doesn't cost anything of being sensitive to women and the problems that they face, but when we come to the point where, as people say the...the rubber touches the road, things change and we find every rationalization and temporization to do nothing or to do that which is hurtful toward women and their interests. This bill is very hurtful. I'm not going to assume the responsibility and the work of analyzing it and pointing out all of the flaws. At least that is the approach I'm of a mind to take at this point. I'm going to get a vote on my bracket motion. That will let Senator Brown know if the body thinks that this ought to be done. If they vote down the bracket motion, that means Senator Brown has won the field. You have to learn how to read the votes of the Legislature. They will have been intimidated enough to have to go for this bill. I thought the Judiciary Committee had matured and grown...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...but instead of the Judiciary Committee having grown, the Judiciary Committee causes me to groan on this bill. The committee failed in its responsibility, and I hope those senators who voted to put this out on the floor will explain to his or her colleagues why that vote was given. I think only males voted to put this thing out. I'm going to have